

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of searching for a help utility, comprising the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

inputting one or more search keywords directed to at least one help utility;

searching ~~at least one~~ database containing a plurality of help utilities ~~including help utilities associated with~~ provided to the database by a variety of computer operating systems;

finding a help utility matching the keywords among the plurality of help utilities; and
executing the help utility.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords;

displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords; and

selecting one of all help utilities found to match keywords.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

inputting one or more additional keywords directed to at least one help utility; and

searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility that closely approximates the keywords is found, then displaying the related help utility; and

invoking the related help utility.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of help utilities further include help utilities ~~associated with~~ provided by a variety of computer software applications.

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the plurality of help utilities comprises a plurality of wizards, each wizard associated with one of the variety of computer operating systems and wherein the related help utility is a wizard.

8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the plurality of help utilities comprises a plurality of help files, each help file associated with one of the variety of computer operating systems and wherein the related help utility is a help file.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the search keywords may be input using a plurality of languages.

10. (Currently amended) A method of searching for a function wizard, comprising the steps of:

providing a wizard search dialog;

inputting one or more search keywords;

searching ~~at least one~~ database containing a plurality of wizards according to the search keywords wherein the plurality of wizards includes wizards provided to the database by a variety of different computer operating systems;

finding a wizard matching the search keywords; and

invoking the wizard.

11. (Currently amended) A method of searching for a function wizard, comprising the steps of:

providing ~~at least one~~ database containing a plurality of functions wherein the plurality of functions includes functions ~~associated with~~ provided to the database from a variety of computer

operating systems and functions ~~associated with~~ provided to the database from a variety of computer software applications;

providing a wizard search dialog;

inputting one or more search terms directed to one of the plurality of functions;

initiating a search within the database for a function wizard matching one of the plurality of functions based on the search terms;

finding a function wizard matching one of the plurality of functions; and

executing the function wizard;

whereby the search within the database yields function wizards across at least one of different operating systems and different computer software applications.

12. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

inputting one or more search keywords directed to one of a plurality of help utilities;

searching ~~at least one~~ database containing the plurality of help utilities including help utilities provided to the database by a variety of one of computer software applications and computer operating systems that are connected in a network;

finding a help utility matching the keywords;

executing the help utility; and

if after the step of searching the database, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility is found that closely approximates the keywords, then displaying the related help utility.

13. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords;

displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords; and

selecting one of all help utilities found to match the keywords.

14. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

inputting one or more additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help utilities; and

searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities.

15. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the step of invoking the related help utility.

16. (Currently amended) A system for searching for a help utility, comprising a computer program module operative:

to provide a utility search dialog;

to input one or more search terms directed to one of a plurality of help utilities wherein each help utility is provided to a database by a different operating system;

to search the ~~at least one~~ database containing the plurality of help utilities;

to find a help utility matching at least one of the search terms;

to execute the help utility;

if after the step of searching the database, no help utility is found matching at least one of the search terms but a related help utility is found that closely approximates the search terms, to display the related help utility; and

to invoke the related help utility.

17. (Previously presented) The computer program module of Claim 16, further operative:

to determine whether more than one help utility is found matching at least one of the search terms;

to display all help utilities found to match at least one of the search terms; and

to select one of all help utilities found to match at least one of the search terms.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program module of Claim 16, further operative:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching at least one of the search terms, to provide the utility search dialog;

to input one or more additional search terms directed to one of the plurality of help utilities; and

to search the database containing the plurality of help utilities.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

receiving search keywords directed to at least one help utility;

searching a plurality of help utilities across a variety of computer operating systems;

finding a help utility matching the keywords; and

if after the step of searching [[the]] the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility that closely approximates the keywords is found, then displaying the related help utility.

21. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords;

displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords; and

selecting one of all help utilities found to match the keywords.

22. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

if after the step of searching the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

receiving one or more additional keywords directed to at least one of the plurality of help utilities; and

searching the plurality of help utilities.

23. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the step of invoking the related help utility.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the variety of computer operating systems comprises different computer operating systems that are connected in a network.

25. (Currently amended) A method for searching and managing a plurality of help utilities, comprising the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

receiving a search keyword directed to a help utility;

in response to receiving the search keyword, searching the plurality of help utilities across ~~at least one of~~ a plurality of computer operating systems and a plurality of computer software applications;

finding a help utility matching the keywords; and

executing the help utility matching the keyword.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of help utilities is ~~associated with~~ provided by a different computer operating system than other help utilities of the plurality of help utilities.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of computer operating systems are connected in a network.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of help utilities is ~~associated with~~ provided by a different computer software application than other help utilities of the plurality of help utilities and wherein the plurality of computer software applications are connected in a network.